

Staff injured by OLE failure

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

Ref: NRB 17/01

Date of issue: 11/01/2017

Location: Shenfield Station, Essex

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Overview

On 1 January 2017 at approximately 06:30 a gang of permanent way operatives were working on the Up Electric lines located towards the London end of Shenfield station platform 4.

On the adjacent lines, an OLE team using three MEWPs were carrying out preparation for the de-wiring and removal of the existing OLE wiring systems.

Whilst preparations were underway it appears that the existing OLE dropper suffered a failure causing the OLE to fall downward.

The existing radius of the wiring allowed the cables to straighten and move across from the Down Electric to the Up Electric causing it to swing sharply hitting two operatives working as part of the permanent way gang on the Up Electric. One of the operatives was reportedly knocked to the ground.

All activities immediately stopped and both men were taken to Queen's hospital, Romford for medical assessment where fortunately only minor injuries were confirmed.

Discussion Points

While the investigation is underway please discuss the following with your team:

- When establishing exclusion zones around work how do you ensure they are sufficient to protect all staff including those in other teams in the work vicinity?
- For OLE works how are radial forces considered when deciding the size of the exclusion zone?
- How do you make sure that exclusion zones for your work are enforced and remain effective throughout the works?

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